

This Old House

Cozy Up to Fall

- Pretty paint ideas
- Charming period details
- Warm wood finishes

TOH
TOP 100
Best New
Home
Products



Simple wall paneling
DIY shadow box
Vintage-look LEDs
Clever bath upgrades
Leaf-free gutters

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SECTION / VÄSTERHOP Kitchen

\$3399*

*Based on a 10" x 10" footprint.

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A dream kitchen should be a luxury that everyone can afford – a complete kitchen with a beautiful island, all the storage you'll need, and unique solutions that fit your budget. Because no matter what you do, who you are, or how much you make, you deserve to make the dream yours.



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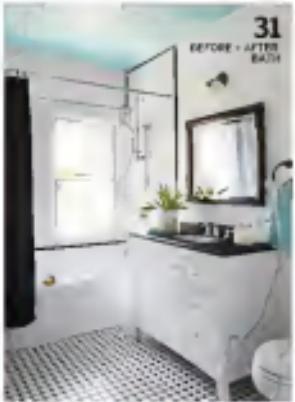
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on the cover



Cover Photography
JOSH SCHAFFER
Styling by NICKI ANDREWS



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BUILD IT

PHOTO: JOSH SCHAFFER; STYLING: NICKI ANDREWS; PROP STYLING: KAREN LEE

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Letter FROM TOH

Here's to a few of my favorite things

Christmas always comes early here at This Old House. Specifically, it rolls in around the middle of July. That's when I first begin considering the products that will wind up in the TOH! Top 100, our annual roundup of the best new home products.

There are only two rules: It must be truly good, and it must be new for this issue (launched sometime in the past year). Our editors comb through hundreds of products in six different categories for the first pass. Many they've had a chance to test earlier at trade shows and press events. To exhaust others, we ask manufacturers for actual physical samples, if they aren't too expensive (I do, yes refrigerators and ovens they get here, we lay them out on the big conference table and argue).

Every year, there are more than a few items that cause me to start making my list and checking it twice. This year, for example, I'm coveting Electrolux's 30-Inch Electric Single Wall Oven with IQ Touch Controls (big grilling! Stainless steel! Plus, it comes with a self-cleaning feature). The problem is, when I actually enjoy doing laundry, I would love to throw it in here (Samsung's iWash and FlexDry, with a separate wash-and-spin function that let you wash and dry your delicates top load while your sheets sit below).

The highlight in my kitchen is General Tools' Laser Tag Measuring (a journey to an estate large enough to fit) and the 28-Inch SmartTag travel iron, which turns my old ironing board into much more. Remember The Chaper on T? This is its modern equivalent. And the highlight in my kitchen is Kohler's Idea Board answer panel, which measures a ginormous 9 by 18 inches. (Of course, I've got one of those, I might never use my bathroom, who likes a long soaking even more than I do. But still.)

I know, because you're following me, that many of you shop this list, too. So here's page 99 and I started. Happy hunting! And visit ThisOldHouse.com!



This extremely cute Japanese-style housewarming gift is from the PBS Design Store. See the story on page 102.

LINDA O'LEARY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
ThisOldHouse.com



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Enter the
**COLOR YOUR OWN...
CONTEST!**

presented by Sherwin-Williams®



A Restful Room

- You're sure to wake up refreshed in this peaceful room, with its watery-blue walls, soft, girly drapes, and lovely light tones. Would you use a similarly serene palette, or pack this room with a colorful punch?
- Download your template [here](#) at [thisoldhouse.com/colorcontest](#)
- Grand Prize Winner will receive \$300 cash and a \$200 gift card, three runners-up will each receive a \$100 gift card!



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Crew-Built Shadow Box Sweepstakes

Presented by Gorilla Glue



Enter to win it!

We're giving away this crew-built shadow box—as featured on this season of Ask This Old House—signed by the Ask TOH crew and filled with extra goodies. For your chance to win, go to thisoldhouse.com/gorillaawards. Enter daily through November 29th!

Want to build it yourself?

Turn to page 60 for step-by-step instructions.

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Reader mail NOV/DEC 2017



SEEING WHAT YOU DO with the ideas, tips, and how-tos on our pages never gets old. We love hearing how a project turned out, what paint color worked, or how you finally fixed a tricky problem. We hope you keep sharing with us—we read every letter and e-mail!

Color cues from the past

I loved the article "Cue with History" [September/October]. I'm a big fan of period decorations, plus I realized that the warm tones in the Cuisinart color scheme would be perfect for my den. Thank you for the inspiration.

—WANNA SCOBELLS, ADWORTH, GA

Numbers game

I brought out last when I read the reader question about tape measures [Ask This Old House, September/October]. I'm left-handed and use it to almost every tool upside down or backwards. I never gave it a second thought because the numbers are right side up for me.

—BETTY CAMPBELL, FORTRESSVILLE, MD

On its way to a happy ending

I wanted to follow up with thank you and an update on the McKeown House in McLeansville, Indiana [Ask This Old House, June/2007]. You will be happy to learn that thanks to that feature we sold the house. The buyers have started renovating and are making future plans. It will take some time before there is an "afters" but thank you for your help—you can mark this one off as "fixed."

—TODD McKEOWN, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

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Include your full name, address and phone number. Published letters are addressed after publication.



Pallet barn door

—DODIE CORRIN GOESO, NC

I really wanted a barn door, but prefabricated ones looked too bland to me. I found the sliding barn door how [on your website after I signed up as a TOH Insider]. I mostly used pens and paper, but got a few cuts off pallets from my local lumberyard. The I understand how rough pallets can be, but they have a great rustic look.



THE PROJECT IS DONE.

Now lose the paper trail.

An advertisement for the CENTRIQ app. The top half shows a smartphone displaying the app's interface, which includes a search bar and categories for Kitchen, Laundry, and Bath. Below the phone is a stack of various papers, including a Canon Service & Support document and a Cuisinart instruction manual. The bottom half of the ad features the CENTRIQ logo and the tagline "Everything you need, for every project and every appliance. All in one place." It also includes download links for the App Store and Google Play, and a slogan "Shop a photo. Understand your stuff."

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COMPRESSOR

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RIDGID.COM/18VBRUSHLESS/5.0AH/COMPRESSOR



home solutions

INSIDE | DRAFT FIXES | OVEN CLEANING | HOME SAFETY | BETTER LEDS | MORE



Mind the window gaps

Winter is coming. If you can feel air breeze around your closed windows, consider these quick-and-easy ways to block drafts. Such stopgap measures eliminate air leaks by sealing such perimeters from indoors. Come spring, add or replace weatherstripping for a longer-lasting fix.



ROPE CHALK

This clay-like ribbon comes in grey or brown. Peel off as many of the 1-inch strips as you need to fill a gap, and press the chalk into place. It leaves no residue, but isn't reusable. The unused portion lasts about 1½ years. **W. Morris Windowstrip and Caulking Cord**, about \$5 for a 90-foot roll; homedepot.com



FOAM BACKER ROPE

These ribbed polypropylene cords come in a range of diameters, starting at 1/8 inch. They are not sticky—you press them into place, cut to length—and they're reusable, after being cut from being pinched too tightly. **Poly Foamer Caulk Sealer**, from about \$3.80 for 20-ft. roll; midwestbuildingproducts.com

REMOVABLE CAULK

Using a caulk gun, squeeze a bead of this clear, rubbery base onto each side. The clear rubbery base stays put until you pull it off in the spring and reuse it. One tube covers up to 50 feet. **AcFoil Removable Caulking Strip Sealant**, about \$5.80 for a 30.3-ounce tube; acfoil.com



Is your oven holiday-ready?

If you're preparing for holiday and roasting loads of spills in your oven, you may be tempted to use the self-cleaning cycle and walk away. Think twice: Your appliance is going to pay the price. The high-heat setting can trigger a service call on an otherwise new oven (the cost of a repair: \$13 per hour, on average). So don't wait until the day of or week. Before a holiday cook-off, then, take these steps. What to do instead? Try **Clorox DE Pure Free-Oven Cleaner**, followed by a thorough oven cleaning. It's dilute white vinegar solution, suggests one appliance expert. Be aware that vinegar won't neutralize many strong odors, though, so clean for holiday occasions. Because some people reuse them and some products produce toxic fumes. Applying a paste of baking soda following a final sponge-cleaning (white vinegar can work, too), that's expected to use a lot more muscle. —M.H.

Detector check

Don't know the last time you tested your smoke and CO alarms? They're over due for your attention. **SMOKE ALARMS**: On the 10th day of each month, press the test button to make sure they're working properly. Alarms need replacing every 10 years—the date is printed on the back. Opt for ones with both 10-year batteries and photoelectric sensors. **CO ALARMS**: Change the batteries in the smokeless but deadly gas created when gas or wood burns at high enough oxygen. Place detectors everywhere you have a smoke alarm. And take these precautions: Don't leave up cars in the garage (without the garage door open), and be sure the vents for gas-powered dryers and clothes dryers don't become blocked by snow. —M.H.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 108

PHOTO: ANDREW DAVIS TUCKER; STYLING: KAREN BROWN; PROP STYLING: KAREN BROWN; PROP STYLING: KAREN BROWN

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An old-timy look for LEDs

Fixtures that show off Edison-style bulbs are everywhere these days. Now you don't need to sacrifice energy efficiency for style, thanks to a new crop of "fancy" filament™ LED bulbs with diodes configured in arcs, spirals, and other decorative designs. The bulbs' lower price and softer glow means no more excuses—it's time to ditch those old incandescents.



1> Edisonbulbs (10) tinyurl.com/edisonbulbs and "fancy" filament™ fixtures leverages many LEDs configured to resemble incandescent filaments. This 60W equivalent vintage-style bulb with a warm glow costs \$12.99 at Home Depot.

2> Getting in shape If you like the look but not the cost with lower temperatures and a shorter life, an incandescent bulb that looks like a vintage-style bulb is a better glow. 100W vintage LED bulb \$29.99 at Lamps Plus.

3> Easy fit Glass cones in many shapes, and most—including the one here—is a medium base. But there are filament-style candle-style

bulbs, basic bulb, and a 6.5-Watt Soft White (2250K) Q25 Dimmable LED Clear Vintage Style Light with \$12.99 at Home Depot.

4> Twinkly We tend to associate twinkling with Christmas lights, but the numbers refer to energy savings. Despite with a 20W incandescent bulb, LED uses just 2.5W. Kohler 40W Equivalent Dimmable Amber 79.99 at Lamps Plus.

5> Shaky legs Edison's early bulbs burned for 1,200 hours. LEDs can easily last 10 times as long; this one is expected to glow for at least 15,000 hours. 60W equivalent LED vintage Edison Medium-base bulb (\$20) at tinyurl.com/ledvintagelights—\$19.99.



MOTIONSENSE WAVE
MOEN.COM/MOTIONSENSE

MOEN



DIY fire starters

Here's an easy way to light a fire using what Mother Nature leaves on the ground. Tie a length of twine or candle wick (available at crafts stores) to the base of a dry pinecone, wind it between the scales, then snip it off at the top to create a wick. A basketful makes a nice seasonal display on your hearth or mantel. —sw

Beats a
smelly sponge

Even with regular microwaving, sponges get grimy fast while harboring germs and food debris in their grooves and plastic scrubber sides. No wonder nests-avoid using sponges for dishwashing and toss them almost as regularly as paper towels. Our grandmothers didn't need them and neither do we. Augment your elbow grease with easy-care cleaner-uppers like the ones at right.



Keep gutters uncluttered

Scaling a ladder to dislodge clumps of dirty, decaying leaves can anyone's favorite chore. Cross this mindless task off your autumn to-do list for good with gutter guards that keep out leafy debris—while you stay safely on the ground.

2020-03-20

These moists need
more leaf mulches
moisture holds through the
growing season but still
can't correct. Look for the
softwood CXT mulch and
soil and mulch system with
Dense Fiber CXT
Gutter Fiber from 8.86 for
4 feet x 100 ft supply most



► **WZ4355** (4355) **1958 UH100**: This observation is from a sample of four

debris, eradicating silicone bottles—too soft for crusty pots, but great for dried egg, sausages, cartwheels and sticky slabs of dough. It's a dishwasher-safe, too—\$8 each. kuhmkitchen.com

5. **題目與題文說明:** 選出一個或數個符合題旨的題文，說明理由。

• **FOOTBALL SACKS** Long distance from the center, throw toward the back of the right hand and left shoulder strap. Toss to dry. For the right hand right-left-right-left. If you're right in the weather and dryer. From \$1 each at headbeds.com and dry-bags.com. —DEBORAH BALDWIN



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BG 56 / 66 / 86



BG

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INDEPENDENT WE STAND
2010

independentswestand.org

STIHL



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Jeremy Hart | 3rd Generation Logger

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Nathan & Jen Owen | Homeowners

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*Number one selling brand in United States based on 2016 STIHL sales and market share data for the year for gasoline-powered handheld outdoor power equipment category and total sales in comparison to all manufacturers. ©2017 STIHL.



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אנו מודים לך!

STIHL

• before + after | kitchen

Going for flow

Three cramped, poorly configured rooms become one seamless space for prepping and enjoying meals, as well as tackling the laundry. **BY NINA MALLON • PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL EVER**



WHEN IT COMES TO the number of visitors to a house, most can't always remember. Take Barbara Read's 1958 Craftsman-style bungalow in Oakland, CA, where a series of three small rooms—solar for cooking, brewhouse, and dining/banquet—inspired how to use the backyard and house office. Plus, the kitchen itself was badly laid out. "The counter top, sink, and stove were on one side, while the drawers and cabinets were on the other," Barbara says. Not to mention that the space had an aesthetic upgrade when the house's basic 32' perimeter

Designer Colleen Ultman's bungalow won't fit all there room, giving an open doorway of 380 square feet. A corner island holds the

coachtop for casual prep opposite a breakfast bar with stool seating, with the side, bridge, and wall oven now steps away. For laundry duty, this stacked washer and dryer unit also takes the place-of-side by-side machines and are set behind a tiered iron range closet door that opens up the walk space. A banquette-diner space saving seating for the table and banquette in light from two windows. Sleek appliances including a glass-fronted meat hood, are solomon with pale gray cabinetry, apricot walls, and a tile backsplash of smooth black

"For the first Thanksgiving in the ladder, ten people were merrymaking around comfortably to prepare the meal," Barbara says. "It was wonderful."

REDFIELD Peeling paint and
wallpaper plus cracking vinyl
flooring made the transposed
space look shabby.

After updated and worn with a
grindstone open work table, the
kitchen features a center island
topped with slate in granite and
white oak framing that matches the
shoes in the rear of the house.



before
What a kitchen! Only
one spacious room
was available for the
kitchen, laundry, and
dining areas. The
cabinets were
old-fashioned, causing
drama for the filter lines
and other perf supplies
one shelf away from

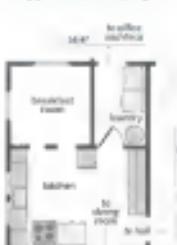
the floor.



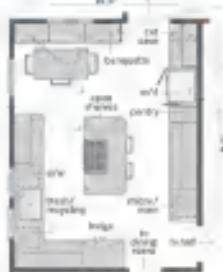
After: A sleek white
vertical washer/dryer
unit replaced the old
cabinets for a single
laundry room. Open
laundry space and
brick-to-brick
brick-to-brick.

before

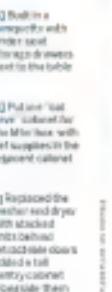
These separate rooms
implied traffic flow and old
appliances wasted space.



1] Removed
wall-to-wall
tile between
one cooking
area and
laundry space



2] Removed
bumpers in
under-seat
storage drawers
next to the tub



3] Put in a
tall
cabinet
under the
laundry with
perf supplies in
the adjacent cabinet



4] Replaced the
washer and dryer
with stacked
unit behind
refractable doors
added a tall
perf cabinet
stacked with them

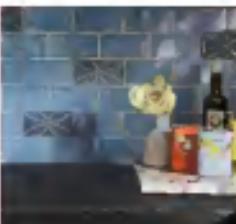
PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN



homeowner tip

BY KAREN POLK,
OAKLAND, CA.

"**Make accidents happy!** The opening for my wall oven was inadvertently cut too large, so the cabinet-maker built a drawer under it. That's perfect for my extra oven rack."



Under-cabinet lighting illuminates
brick-powder room chairs and makes
the blue-green tile recoupable
glow. *See Sources, page 106.*



Lavished with light
from bare-bones
overhead lighting, this
nook sits right in a
pitch. The table, built
by the homeowner's
woodworker, is
surrounded by
oversized chairs
and offers storage
beneath the
table to boot.

Large, flat insulating
trays and insulators
stored in the base of
the nook. The
bent-cutout
cabinet door
covers it in a deep
oversized white
“It takes a few
days to make,”



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THE WORLD'S FIRST VorMax® Plus FreshClean™
lasts for 50 days on 300 flushes.

American
Standard

Room to grow

An architect lets his house's period style influence design choices for the kids' bath, with a surprise twist overhead. BY KATELIN HILL • PHOTOGRAPHS BY VICTORIA PEAKSON

A KIDS' BATH should feel fun, but powerful design choices should be undoable on a dime. Before Adam and Jill Senneter purchased their 1905 Craftsman house in Santa Barbara, CA, the family of four had been sharing a single bathroom. "I imagined some serious tension if we didn't give the kids their own space," says Adam, an architect. He wanted the new house's second bath to be one the kids could grow into without it looking too childish later on. He also needed to add a shower to the tub, without risking water damage to the windows alongside it. The master double shower and soaking tub Adam designed lets the curtain and liner pull around three sides of the tub when the shower is in use; they pull to the side of the windows at the end of the tub when it's not. A vanity adds storage and fits into the overall palette of classic black and white—except for the tiling, which received a pop of bright turquoise. Now, Adam says, mornings are easier on everyone, and the kids love how the space is tailored for them. "It looks traditional until you walk in and look up," he says. "It's got hidden power."

PHOTOGRAPH BY VICTORIA PEAKSON; STYLING BY KATELIN HILL; DECORATION BY ADAM SENNETER; DESIGN BY JILL SENNETER

BEFORE The bland white-tiled bath lacked a shower and storage.
AFTER More light in a new shower over the tub is easily replaced after demolition; a custom black-and-white vanity and a fun fit of color on the ceiling.





The homeowners installed a built-in bench instead of a freestanding one so the children can reach the lower seat area and grow into the higher one. A hamper shelf pulls off the built-in bench with hooks that lets keep things tidy on their own. The wood paneling makes the room look like it was already updated. (Photo: Jason R. Miller)



Installing a built-in bench instead of a freestanding one protects the wood window from water damage. Matrix 4-by-12 inch tiles look like modern wood planks but feature a stained wood pattern. Shower: Bright White 1x16x36.

after

The bath gained vanity storage and a shower thanks to a window-swing cutout. (Photo: Jason R. Miller)

1) Installed curtain rods in the shower curtain and liners could be pulled out of the way of the window.

2) Hung double shower bars to one side of an existing shower cabinet and added a hamper below it.



3) Opened up the wall to create a shower over the existing tub.

4) Replaced the tub-and-tiles with a 42-inch-wide vanity for added storage.

5) Upgraded the bath with a sleek, modern dual-flush toilet.

PHOTO: JASON R. MILLER



homeowner tip

ADAM SHARKEY, SANTA BARBARA, CA

"Rather than risk a woefully outdated space later on, use temporary tricks like paint colors or your kids' artwork to make a space youthful yet easy to change as they get older."



A cutout system allows the shower curtain and liners to be pulled to one side of the window for added circulating natural light. When the shower is in use, a liner provides window-tint measure. The ceiling panel was also modified to match the homeowners' built-in bench. Custom cutout system: J. Shower's



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From disastrous to delightful

A once-charming 1920s house, now saddled with an out-of-balance facade, gets a makeover inspired by its setting

BY KATE WOOD • ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAHO NO



"WE LOVE the location, the setting, and the yard, but the exterior is really in poor shape," says Mike Vankos of the 1920s house in Quincy, MA, that she shares with her husband, Nat Welsh, and their two children. So we turned to Buckner Williams Architects for advice on how to improve it. Their team would start by adding eave extensions on the left that match the original roof's steep gable, giving the boxy second-story addition the look of an overexposed shed dormer. A front porch with a smaller roof overhang and an arched opening open up the entry and allows for a window above it, creating balance. Colonial- and Federal-inspired architectural details, including cornice trim and window pilasters, give the house a sense of place. "I love the idea of a distinctly New England vibe," Mike says. "and the new porch and entry are beautiful!" ■

finishing touches

A creative mix of Colonial and more contemporary finishes complements the new look.



paint

Bright white trim with slate-blue siding. Colors: The Color People's Red, Mineral Silver (pewter); Freedom Found (slate); Apple A Day (slate). From \$25 per gallon. appleaday.com



entry light

A factory-inspired hanging Indian chandelier. The eye up to the entry porch is wood casting. Resolute Industrial Cast Hung Pendant, from \$249. resoluteindustrial.com



house numbers

Quarried sandblasted numbers in solid gold designs (from \$1,500) and a tall alder frame. Dark Alder Cypress Floating House Numbers, from \$100 per digit. kernighanproducts.com

Photo: Michael J. Lewellen

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Photo: Michael J. Lewellen

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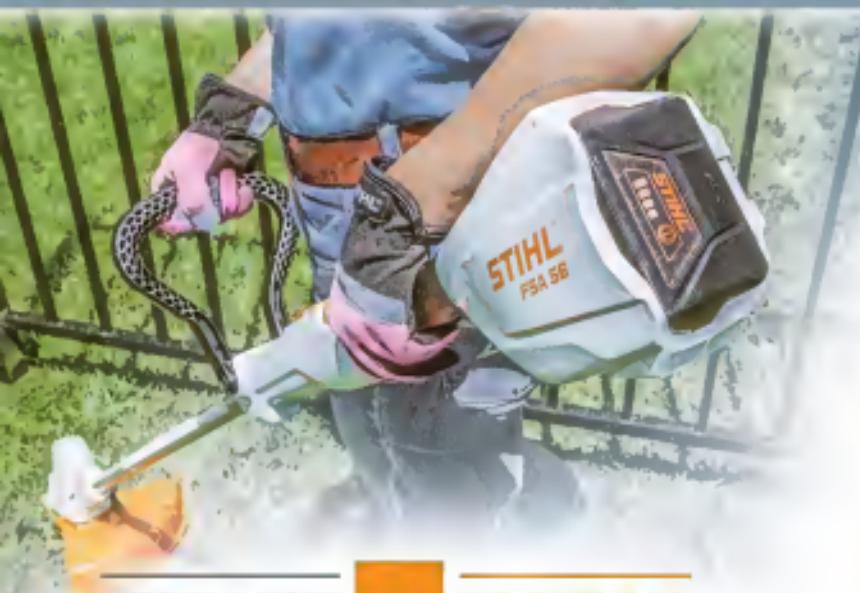


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AP 300		250	250	75	35
AP 900				250	130
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Count petals, not sheep

Blossoms strewn across a wall, bed, and lamp, as if blown there by the wind? Sweet dreams... BY DEBORAH BALOWIN • PHOTOGRAPH BY GEMMA COMES

IT'S NOT HARD to imagine how ordinary this space might seem without sumptuous pillows and sheets. Or how that caught look of their pets had stopped short of the headboard, never mead somewhere other than the landscape.

The scheme begins with a sense blue coat (like Auguste Renoir's *Portrait of Gerome*). Then, after introducing with a burst of blossoms in three main colors, a sight blue (like Auguste Renoir's *Le Ge-Gé*). Notice that underneath blue is the same impression in a lighter shade to add dimension; leaving the blossoms full in a boundary-defining diagonal pattern that's whole picture's center line.

The easiest way to do this is with over-size stamps. Ready-made ones won't do, but you can make your own! Find and trace three images and press the end of a straw (iron before carving them out) and glue them to a block. Use a sponge dabber to apply latex paint to the stamps, starting with the lighter color and cleaning the sponge between colors. After painting on paper, move to the wall, then the headboard and lamp—add more medium (available at craft stores) to turn latex into fabric paint—sponge and varying the angles of the blossoms, as shown. Overlaying a thick blue on pale blue or white not only adds depth but also helps fill in any gaps. Use a small artist's brush to add centers to some of the blossoms or to sharp any blurred outlines. Note that the effect is supposed to be exact—think more along the lines of dreamy. ■



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Wall-mount pot fillers

Save time (and your back) with a foldable faucet that fixes trips from sink to cooktop and fills your largest pots with aplomb

BY KATE WOOD • PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRIAN ANASTAS AND ZACH DESART

UPDATING YOUR KITCHEN, or even just replacing your faucet? Now's a good time to consider adding a pot filler. These handy fixtures need their own water supply, so if you're already tearing into your wallet, it's a perfect opportunity to install one.

Pot fillers can save the labor of carrying pots of water from sink to burner, as well as if you need to boil enough H2O for a lobster feast or supply the pasta for a spaghetti dinner feed-fest. But a pot filler saves everyday tasks, too. A gallon of water weighs more than 8 pounds, off-shore windups of basic brass and brass snap add up to a surprising amount of lifting. Today, even lower-priced models are made with a brass body and ceramic valves—including the ones shown here and on the following pages—in the cook's kitchen doesn't have to be a major splurge.

Here, 10 fabulous fillers.



1 > new twist

KOHLER
Size: 10 1/2" x 27 1/2" L
Highlights: This polished nickel fixture's 3-spout can create 300° spraying water coverage in a pinch. Cost: \$720. kohler.com

2 > dark star

PIONEER INDUSTRIES
Size: 8 1/2" x 24 1/2" L
Highlights: Honed to a high-polish finish, this 3-spout can create 300° spraying water coverage in a pinch. Cost: \$720. pioneer.com



3 > off the hook

Project
Size: 37" W x 28" H.
Highlights: This fixture's off-the-cuff curved faucet and shepherd's crook spout, reminiscent of a Victorian-era faucet, give it vintage appeal.
Cost: \$395. kohler.com

4 > champagne taste

Project
Size: 30 1/2" W x 38 7/8" L.
Highlights: This bubbly gooseneck faucet looks like the whimsical art of French artist Jeanne de la Fontaine made to reveal scratches and stains.
Cost: \$804. deltafaucet.com

5 > highspeed

Project
Size: 30 1/2" W x 21 7/8" L.
Highlights: Able to fill at a rate of up to 50 gallons per minute or more than twice as fast as most tank faucets, which top out at 22 gallons per minute.
Cost: \$275. moen.com

6 > in the block

Project
Size: 37" W x 22" L.
Highlights: While the shape of the joints and handles look quite industrial, this faucet's black satin finish gives it a modern feel.
Cost: \$1,032. kohler.com



7 > gold medallie

Project
Size: 37" W x 22" L.
Highlights: While the shape of the joints and handles look quite industrial, this faucet's black satin finish gives it a modern feel.
Cost: \$1,032. kohler.com

8 > brush up

Project
Size: 37" W x 22" L.
Highlights: This especially saluted industrial-style French country-inspired faucet has a polished nickel finish that won't show smudges.
Cost: \$1,418. kohler.com

9 > shine on

Project
Size: 37" W x 22" L.
Highlights: With a gooseneck that's over 4 gallons per minute, this polished nickel style can make the most of large vessels.
Cost: \$390. kohler.com

10 > penny wise

Project
Size: 37" W x 22" L.
Highlights: With a gooseneck that's over 4 gallons per minute, this polished nickel style can make the most of large vessels.
Cost: \$390. kohler.com

Updated vanity nook for \$75

A thrifty homeowner turns to materials she has on hand to overhaul an awkward space. BY KATHLEEN HILL



BEFORE: The dark, washed-out vanity cabinet just isn't reflecting the aesthetic of this space.

AFTER: The sophisticated, modern vanity is a few wood spindles from giving the homeowners time to plan a bigger, bolder renovation.



FOR LESS THAN \$75

THE PROJECT TALLY

Painted the walls and trim white and the cabinet dark gray using leftover paint from other rooms in the house. **\$0**

Made a DIY light fixture by combining parts I found from a lighting supply store. **\$45**

Upcycled the dark wood vanity cabinet to white. I had some left over from other rooms. **\$0**

Replaced the existing vanity hardware with brass knobs, handles and caps I had on hand. **\$29**

Purchased a new hand towel and a decorative cloth at a store on hand. **\$5**

TOTAL **\$75**

PHOTO: KATHLEEN HILL; STYLING: KATHLEEN HILL; PROP STYLING: KATHLEEN HILL; PROP STYLING: KATHLEEN HILL

IT'S EASY TO MAKE an awkward space blend in with the rest of your house when you stick to using materials from your previous home-improvement projects. That's exactly what Ashley Mayes did to make the vanity area of her master bath, which is visible from the bathroom, more cohesive with the rest of the Springfield, MO, home she shares with her husband and son. After beefing up the master bath's base boards, Ashley painted the walls the same bright white as the bedroom and the vanity a dark slate gray, which she had left over from painting her kitchen cabinets. She installed brass knobs and pulls, playing off the

brass accents she used elsewhere in the house. Then Ashley designed a modern exposed-back source-to-the-left lighting fixture, using know-how she'd picked up doing similar projects like her lighted mantel pieces—black wands, brass tubing, and a black baseplate—from a lighting supply store, then added some surprises, and added the wiring. In order to stay within her budget of \$100, finishing touches were borrowed from other rooms, with the exception of a new hand towel. Says Ashley, who blogs at biggerbathsmallerlife.com, "Now the bath feels like an extension of the house, instead of an odd duck." ■

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Shadow box

Tom Silva and Kevin O'Connor put together a custom case for displaying heirloom collectibles and curios.

BY THOMAS BAKER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANTHONY TIJU



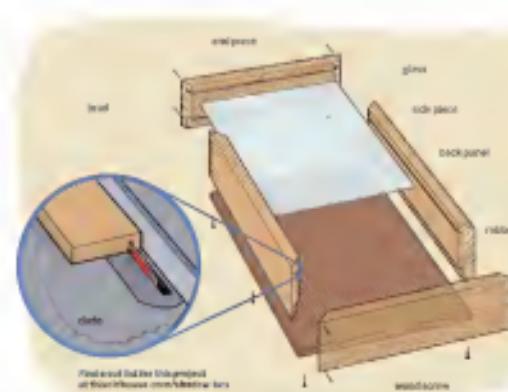
PRECIOUS OBJECTS FROM OUR PAST have an unfortunate habit of ending up squished away in the attic or basement, neglected and forgotten. With a glass-fronted shadow box, however, these collectibles can have a worthy display space, safe from dust and other, chancy figures.

Here's a simple box that Tom and Kevin fashioned, though, from pieces of an old salvaged door. Doors like this were often made from basswood, knot-free wood with a tight, even grain. When sanded, it turns a warm, honey hue. Tom also made sure to leave behind unusable chair caning from the wood's original seat. Set the spots where the hinges were attached.

On the following pages, we'll show you how to cut down an old door and assemble this project. Plus, you'll find useful tips for plugging holes and cutting glass. Then, with a key hole, you may uncover the right salvaged door at the right price, and after a few hours in your shop, you'll have a vintage shadow box of your own.



ON DISPLAY Tom general contractor Tom Silva and TFM host Kevin O'Connor proudly present their basement act: a glass-fronted shadow box. Filled with vintage objects such as those below, it keeps the keepsakes safe and makes them easy to admire.



TOOLS
 • circular saw with rip fence
 • table saw
 • random orbit sander
 • drill
 • miter saw
 • coping saw
 • bar and shop clamps
 • 10-ply 18-gauge brads
 • 10-ply 18-gauge wire
 • glass cutter
 • glass polishing cloth
 • 2-in. 18-gauge brads
 • No. 8 1/2-in. countersink screws

MATERIALS
 • salvaged door
 • sandpaper 120 and 220 grit
 • 1/8-in. 18-gauge brads
 • basswood 1/2 in. x 3/4 in.
 • 1/4-in. thick basswood
 • glass cutting oil
 • 2-in. 18-gauge brads
 • No. 8 1/2-in. countersink screws

FINISHED SIZE:
 14-in. W x 20 1/2-in. L x 3-in. D

STEP-BY-STEP Shadow box



1) Find an old door A clear benefit of this door is that it makes it easier to assess wood quality. Use a saw to assess the door with clear finishes, but it can be with paneling if the panel has no predators. For basswood, take appropriate safety precautions and strip the door down to bare wood before proceeding.



2) Cut it up Use a circular saw with a rip fence or a hand saw with a steady grip on the lower side to cut off the door's large, useable, mitered corners. (This side doesn't have door knobs.) Use a table saw to cut the door into the other side and cut to fit one of the door's flat panels.



3) Clean off the oddball Check for hidden screws. If it's square up the sides of the door with a table saw. Take the opportunity to shave off the door's flat panels. Then sand off the door's flat panels.

STEP-BY-STEP



4 Cabinet and dado Run the cleat board through the table saw two more times to make a 1/8-inch by 1/8-inch rabbet on one corner. The box's bottom panel needs this rabbet. On the same face, knock on the side opposite the rabbet, and the saw to cut a 1/8-inch wide, 1/8-inch deep dado to hold the glass.



5 Sand Using a random-orbit sander and 220 grit sandpaper, smooth all sides of the stile. Save the sanding for the last step. Then sand the finished panel face of the panel, as shown. Start with 180 grit sandpaper and finish with 220.



6 Plug the holes While a scrap piece of wood from the sole is inserted narrow enough to fit in the holes left by the hinge screws. Separate wood glue into the holes, insert the wedged stick, and slice it off flush with a knife, as shown. Use the sanding sander (Step 5) to reseal the glue, as described in the Tip at right.



7 Apply the finish Wipe the stile and panel clean with a tack cloth, then, using a lint-free cloth, apply a penetrating finish to all sides of the stile and the sanded face of the panel. Here, Klean-Tek can be used; varnish blend. For the finish, wait 5 to 10 minutes for the solvent to evaporate, and then the cloth in water to prevent it from catching fire spontaneously. The piece will be dry enough to handle in 30 hours.

TIP

Making holes
 • Save the sanding
 To dispense plugged holes, use a piece that will get a clear finish, remove a scoop of the fine sanding that you've used. Step 5, and use it to dislodge wood glue with your finger, as shown above. The penultimate coat will form the glue the same way as the wood. After the glue hardens, clean the repair smooth.

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STEP-BY-STEP



1 Cut the cutouts. When the front is dry, use a miter saw to cut 45-degree miters at the ends of all four pieces. Cut the lengths specified on the cut list. When making these cuts, place each piece against the saw surface with the dado and rabbet facing out, as shown.



2 Cut the back panel to size. Measure the box's length and width from inside the rabbets. Subtract 1/8 in. from both dimensions to give the panel room to move when the season changes. Using a table saw, trim the back to those slightly narrower measurements, as shown.



3 Apply the glue. Squeeze glue onto both ends of a short and piece as shown, and spread it evenly with a cloth. Place it on the matching end at once, and attach long-side pieces. PVA wood glue would work here, but Titebond II is what we use. Clear Gorilla Glue, a hybrid, non-polyurethane adhesive.

TIPS

Working with a hybrid glue

• **Wait the wood.** Like any polyurethane glue, this hybrid takes a long time to dry. It's best to let it sit for 24 hours before applying it.

• **Clean it.** Secure joints together for at least 2 hours to the glue's curing.

• **Clean it.** If any glue squeezes out, wipe it right away with a dry rag, followed by cold, soapy water. Unlike polyurethane glues, hybrids don't have an odor.

• **Open it.** Unopened, this glue has a two-year shelf life. Opened, it may skin over, but the glue underneath will be usable.



4 Fasten the assembly. Fit the glued-in fins on the endpiece against the glued-in ends of the two side pieces. Make sure the sides and corners line up, then clamp the pieces in place with two 3-in. wood brads, shot through each side of both corners.

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STEP-BY-STEP



778



Setting rules

32] Glue the glass Using the box's back panel as a template, mark the glass with a felt tip marker. To use the panel as a guide for the glass-cutter position, fit it to the cutter's wheel as centered on the marks. Now, wearing gloves, dip the wheel into cutting oil and pull the cutter into a firm stroke along the panel, as shown.

13] Sharp and fit the glass Line up the score mark on the glass with the edge of a table. Wet glasses on **11** the glass where it overlaps the handle and drag it straight down. The glass will snap at the score, leaving a clean straight edge. Repeat Steps **12** and **13** if needed. Then slide the cut sheet into the three-sided frame, as shown.

140. Attach the Lure side: With the photo in place, glue the remaining end piece to the reverse. Hold the pieces in place with a strong clamping and a bar clamp, then check two brads at each side of the points, as shown.



15.1] Open the back panel. Turn the box upside down. Press down on the back panel. Using a 1/4-in. hex-bit, turn the two evenly spaced Phillips bits through the back panel and into the box's frame. Each long side should have three holes, each about 1/4 in. apart. You should have two hex drivers and two Phillips bits. Remove the two Phillips bits as they are fixed in place; you might go to the inside by unscrewing the back. ■

- Lubricate steel wheels. Glass cutters have either steel or carbide wheels. Steel wheels need to be lubricated with oiling oil before use to ensure that they make a clean, continuous score line. Glass cutters with carbide wheels need no lubrication.



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62
tips, tricks, and
answers to
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improvement
questions

Q Can you explain the different types of sandpaper to me? I don't know which kinds to use for which purposes.

—PAMELA, TEMPE, AZ

A Most sandpapers, sanding sponges, and belts use aluminum oxide, the man-made version of the stuff that sapphires and rubies are made of. You can sand most surfaces with this type of grit. But if the abrasive is black, like the sanding sponge at left, then the grit is probably silicon carbide, a synthetic mineral that wears out quickly on bare wood. It's best used to hand-smooth finishes while lubricated with water.

—THOMAS GIBBS

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Q "Boil-water" alerts, lead in water pipes, PCB contamination: I don't think the filter on my kitchen-sink faucet could do the job. Do I need a filter system for the entire house? —SUSAN SLICK, PITTSFIELD, MA

RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES

You might be surprised to know that there are fluorine-reducing filters that can remove lead, PCBs, many bacterial cysts such as giardia or cryptosporidium, and even pesticides and pharmaceuticals. If you just want to upgrade your existing faucet filter—your least-expensive filtering option—then look for one certified to meet NSF/ANSI 53 and 42, the most stringent standards for removing heavy metals and trace contaminants from water.

The good thing about these point-of-use filters is that they purify water only for drinking or cooking, not washing clothes and dishes. Dishwashing, or irrigating the lawn, for example, is a lot less stringent about replacing filters frequently—every 100 gallons or so.

For a less-expensive filtering setup, consider one that runs under the sink. The extra space there means these point-of-use filters can be bigger, more specialized, and won't need changing as frequently. Most deliver water through a dedicated faucet.

Look for filters that meet the S3 and 421 standards and that have a 0.75-gallon-per-minute (gpm) delivery rate through their faucet. That's not the high flow of a standard faucet, but it's 50 percent faster than 0.50-gpm filters.

If you want water that's chemically pure, with every possible contaminant removed, an under-sink reverse-osmosis (RO) filter will do the job. Such a unit does have its drawbacks, however: a high up-front cost, expense of replacement filters, wasted water due to back-



Eye on the outside

I'd like to install security cameras outside, but the more research I do, the more confused I get. Can you help?

—TOMI REINHOLD, NEW BEDFORD, MA

KEVIN O'CONNOR REPLIES: There have been huge improvements in outdoor security cameras in recent years, making them both easier to use and easier to install than the clunky cameras that had to be hooked up to a security system and a separate monitor. The new generation of security cameras simply link to your smartphone, without the need for a monthly contract. But if you want specialized enhancements like motion-sensor recording, optional subscriptions are available for about \$10 a month.

The biggest difference among these new cameras is where they get their power—from batteries or through a plugged-in cord. Battery-powered cameras can be mounted anywhere, but then you have to be diligent about changing or recharging the batteries if you want the camera to remain functional. That's not an issue with a corded camera, like the Nest Cam Outdoor (\$199, nest.com), shown above. You just need a certified GFCI-protected outdoor receptacle within 25 feet of where you want to mount it.

When comparing different outdoor cams, look for useful features such as night vision, high-definition resolution (the Nest Cam has 1080p), motion detection (so it's not constantly recording), and a microphone that allows you to listen and talk to people arriving at your home.

Whichever camera you choose, mount it 7 to 10 feet high, overlooking a place that has high activity, such as the front door, the driveway, or the back door. Contrary to what you might think, you'll probably need more than one camera to get all the coverage you need to feel safe.

KEVIN O'CONNOR writes his monthly *Ask the House* column for *Contractor* and *Remodeling* magazines and *Remodeling* the *Inter*.

flushing—about 3 to 5 gallons go down the drain for every gallon used—and the extra space taken up by an RO-unit. Because RO-filters work so slowly, the tank enables a flow rate of 0.50 gpm. Also, water that comes directly from an RO-filter doesn't taste very good, so get a system with a carbon filter that processes chlorine, magnesium, and potassium back into the filtered water before you drink it.

But if a point-of-use filter under the kitchen sink doesn't meet to offer enough protection, a whole-house filtering system certainly is an option, provided you have the budget to make it happen.

Before you begin, though, have your water tested. You want to know exactly what kind of problems your water has so that the system can be customized to handle them. The free annual reports from your municipal water authority—assuming that's the source of your water—give a snapshot of the quality of the water leaving the treatment plant. Use the water coming out of your taps (not the picking up pollutants on its way from the plant). That's why it's important to collect water samples in your house. You can find a municipal water-testing laboratory by calling 2298 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or going to epa.gov/safewater. Just remember: I'm sorry to say, we're not free.

When comparing whole-house systems, look for a flow rate of at least 1.5 gpm, and find out how often filters need to be replaced and how much they will cost. Regular upkeep is the key to making these systems do what the way they're supposed to. If you're not committed to that task, sign up for a service contract.



OUTDOOR CAMERAS
See how they measure the
Nest Cam
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PHOTO: MELISSA MCGOWAN

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THE HOME DEPOT

How to cut through metal lath and plaster
I have a bathroom leak, and a hole needs to be cut for the plumber. I cut it by hand, it's a 550-watt. If he cuts it, it's \$300+ visit. The problem is that the plaster walls are in hard-as-cement, and reinforced with metal lath. What's the best way to cut through this armored wall?

—CHRISTOPHER LUNION, MIAMI, FL

TOM SILVA REPLIES: Metal lath is more difficult to cut than wood, but with the right tools—a 1-inch carbide-tipped hole saw, chucked into a drill and a reciprocating saw fitted with a carbide-tooth blade—you should be able to make your

What is it?

- ➊ Rubber stand
- ➋ Pipe spacer
- ➌ Funnel
- ➍ Lock for extension cords

PHOTO: ANDREW MCKEE

own access hole, no problem. Before you start cutting, make sure you know what size the hole needs to be for the plumber to do the work. You only want to cut the hole once. You also need to know where the lath sits, and whether paper or wire are buried in the stud bay. Stud finders have a hard time seeing through this type of wall, so drill a hole with the hole saw and explore the bay

with a utility knife and a flashlight. Once you cut lath where you can safely cut, take a piece of cement board or drywall and make a square-cornered patch that's the size of the hole you want. Hold it up to the wall where the hole will be, and trace around it with a pencil. This ensures that the patch will match the hole perfectly. Also, draw a pair of marks across the top edge of the patch and onto the

STYLING: ANDREW MCKEE

soil! They'll show you how to orient the patch when you put it on.

Using your hole saw, make a half-pipe notch each corner of the box you traced on the soil. Now, holding the reciprocating saw as close to you cut to the wall, insert the blade into a hole, and pull the trigger. Keep the saw close to the soil so you grade the blade along the line to the next batten; don't lose cutting-angle momentum vibration, which can crack the surrounding plaster, and reduce the chance of breaking a wire or pipe that might have escaped notice.

After the plumbing is fixed, cut two L-shaped L-brackets about 6 inches longer than the height of the hole. Insert one bracket into the hole, hold it vertically against the

back side of the plaster, so inch or two from the side of the hole and secured top to bottom. Fasten the ring with two screws driven through the wall, making their heads slightly below the surface. Do the same with the other ring.

These rings provide the backing to screw the patch into place. But because the plaster is likely to be thicker than the patch, you'll probably have to drill the rings or the patch to bring its surface flush with the wall.

When the patch is ready to be inserted, align the marks, switch the patch, and apply fiberglass mesh tape to the edges. That's your insurance against future cracking. Then, attach to a couple of zip ties or zip ties.

How to tile over tile

I'm going to install 18-by-18-inch ceramic tiles over tiles using basement floor that were installed in the '80s. The old tiles are secure, but do I need to use a special primer or thinset to set the new ones?

—JIM MILLER, MAINE

MARIN FERRANTE REPLIES: If you plan ahead, you'll be fine. Just make sure that there will be enough headroom after the new tiles go in! In some instances, a loss of even 1/8 inch or so could prevent a problem.

Marin Ferrante is the owner of Ferrante Tile in Woburn, MA, and has had tiles in almost all of The Old House TV project houses.

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It's good that the old tiles are well securely attached to the bathroom slab; a solid, stable base is essential for any tiling project. Even so, take a few minutes to give each tile a tap with a rubber mallet, just to make sure that none of them are loose. Mark the ones that make a rattling sound, and if there are only a few of them, chip them out and fill the cracks with thinset. But if there are a lot of loose tiles, you should probably remove all of them and start fresh. Also, make sure of any long cracks that indicate that the slab has shifted. You'll deal with those later.

Now, if the old tile work is staying in place, roughen its surface with 60 grit sandpaper to ensure a good grip for the new tile. A rented floor

What is it?

Funnel

The legs of the polypropylene Clip-on Spout fit onto both quart and gallon containers, eliminating splashes or messy spills. \$1.29. bit.ly/2oH0oam

sander can quickly cover large areas. Use a belt sander or random orbit sander along the edges where the floor sander can't reach. Next, remove any loose or mighty grout, either with a utility oscillating tool fitted with a grout-removal tool, or by hand, with a carbide-toothed scrapping tool. Vacuum up the grit, with the surface with a no-nose cleaner like

Spiral Spin, and let it dry. While it's drying, use a long straightedge or level to check the floor for dips and bumps. It doesn't have to be level, but it should be flat. Otherwise, you'll have a buck of a tile getting off the edges of your 18-by-18 tiles to line up. The Tile Council of North America (TCNA) specifies that tiles longer than 12

inches on a side require a subfloor that doesn't vary more than 1/8 inch over 10 feet. If your existing floor meets that criterion, and has no cracks, you can start tiling.

If only a few low spots need to be filled, use a cementitious floor patch that can be sanded to a feather edge. But if lots of filling is required, and the floor is fairly level, then mix and pour a cement-based self-leveling underlayment over the entire floor. As its name implies, this type of underlayment will flow to the lowest level, and the more it floor slopes, the more underlayment you'll need to pour. For those spots where you don't want the underlayment to go, put up drywall spacers. The big payoff for all this

extra effort will be a perfectly flat and level surface, which will make laying your tiles much easier.

Now is the time to deal with cracks, if there are any, in the original floor. The way to do this is with a crack isolation membrane, such as Bona's GoldFiber (bona.com), which stops cracks from propagating through to the new tiles.

Once all the dips and cracks have been addressed, tiling can commence. This is a job for polymer-modified thinset; the kind you mix with water. Ready-mix mixes have no place here. For your large tiles, I recommend that you lower the base on the back of each one before setting it into the chamber on the floor. That way, there'll be no worries about tiles coming loose.

One last thing: Laying up the edges of a big tile won't be easy, but giving extra attention to them is essential.

Now is the time to deal with cracks, if there are any, in the original floor. The way to do this is with a crack isolation membrane, such as Bona's GoldFiber (bona.com), which stops cracks from propagating through to the new tiles.

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Norm's tricks of the trade

QThe old door trim and baseboards that I've pried off the walls are full of nails. But when I tried hammering them out from the back side, their heads splintered the surface. Should I cut them off instead?

—NANCY JOHNSON, BLANDING, VA

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AI'm glad to hear that you're trying to save your trimwork. It's next to impossible to find new bradawl matches the thickness and profile of the original material. But salvaged trim typically has lots of nails with slightly recessed heads hidden under putty. And, as you observed, when a recessed head is pried out, even if it's a small finishing nail, it will take some wood with it.

The trick to keeping your trim intact is to pull the nail out from the back side of the trim. The head will splinter that side on its way out, but that has no effect on the trim's appearance.

My favorite tool for this task is a pair of long-handled pliers—commonly known by the brand name Channellock. Just grip the nail shaft with the tool's serrated jaws as close to the wood as you can get, and rock the tool back on its curved upper jaw. If a long nail doesn't come out on the first pull, simply reposition the jaws on the shaft near the wood, and rock the tool back again. The pliers' long handles provide more than enough leverage to remove even the most stubborn nails safely and easily. ■

ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFREY L. HARRIS; STYLING BY JENNIFER L. HARRIS

smart
HOME

THE OLD House INSIDER

MY READER ■ ARCHIVES ■ MAGAZINE ■ LIVE/EVENTS ■ DEALS

THE INSIDE STORY

Meet some members of our new club for TOH superfans



MATTHEW DONMAN • Brookfield, WI • Construction

An interest in architecture as a child prompted Matthew Donman, 30, to start watching *This Old House* with his dad; today watching old episodes "brings back wonderful memories." He and his wife hope to buy a house one day, but for now Matthew just likes tool add-ons while building his 2-year-old daughter a dollhouse.



JOSEPH SHERRICK • Gurnee, IL • Arts and events supervisor

Having access to all the episodes of *This Old House* lets Josh Sherrick, 37, catch the "classic Norm" action that he loves. Josh says that he and his wife suffer from "multiple-project syndrome"; he has three projects on the way, adding a new tool to the workshop, redoing the master bath and letting indoor to the kitchen.



TYA HAMMOND • Waukegan, IL • Fiber artist

As the odds-insulation, cork floors, and new windows and doors have given her the chance to create a workspace, Tya Hammond, 38, gets a hand from her 3-year-old son. He's been dragging tools around helping with projects ever since he learned to crawl. For ideas, Tya binge-watches *This Old House*, or turns to the "Live Q&As."



FRANK AMATO • Clarendon, NJ • Retired

Turning to the expert advice offered during Live Q&As has helped Frank Amato, 43, on his outdoor projects, which include planting blue spruce shrubs and ground-cover bed and creating an area for his son's Arbor Day seedlings. An all-around guy, Frank also recently repainted the mortar on a 100-foot-long stone wall.



KEN LA HORTA • Barrington, IL • Painting contractor

Access to Live Q&As and previous seasons of *This Old House* have given Ken La Horta, 62, many ideas for his complete remodel now in its 15th year. Painting, painting, and landscaping are the current projects, viewed by his family as standard operating procedure. "They'd wormed it if something wasn't apart!"



CINDY BECKNELL • Bellmore, NY • Dietrich reader

With an 1894 Italianate home, Cindy Becknell, 65, appreciates all the advice that the *This Old House* experts share during Live Q&As. She is putting the tips into action in her kitchen remodel, which has included such old-house challenges as dealing with a heavy trap door to the basement. "We are almost finished!"



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STONE, TIMBER, AND TENACITY

A handsome centuries-old house with a history of haphazard improvements meets its match in a family of determined DIYers

By Deborah Baldwin • Photography by John Graves

Produced by Nicole Esposito-Polly • Styling by Anna Melvick

All hands on deck...one pair holding his brother's ankles?

When Kim Knobler and Tom McEntee looked up one day during the routine renovations of their family's 18th-century relic, they were pleased to see their two-grown sons getting ready to straighten the roof. It had been years since the whole house crew had gotten together, they were all tired of living in chaos, and

wood had gone out. Everyone, please help!

Kim, who had done some on the roof herself, remembered that a double take when he looked more closely. One of the boys had decided to nail a bracket in place by lowering himself over the ridge—headfirst.

No to worry, Mom. His brother was holding his feet.

From the beginning, this renovation has

been a team effort. The homeowners commissioned a dining room mural in the 18th-century timber-frame painter style. It tells the story of the house as it evolved over 225 plus years. Above, the table is a favorite spot for board games and to witness a serious card-drawing contest known as *Happy Merry Thanksgiving*.





born a family affair, starting with the moment Kim and Tom first took a hard look at the place, a shortening log of houses in historic New Paltz, New York. They hadn't planned on it, but were visiting former neighbors with one of their four kids when the house, called Thimblewood, "reached out to us," Kim says—despite its long time as a college town crash pad. (Response: a) said dad, "You're buying that?"

Of course fixing it up would be hard, but the couple had lots of energy and the house had lots of bedrooms, so they figured they could cull on one area while making up for it in another, during the most hot by lot, set to everyone's help, over time.

A lot of time, as it turns out.

Tom, an airline pilot, was game to improve his DIY skills, and Kim, who grew up as she has learned to love woodworking and gain, was up for the challenge too. It felt good, after all, to salvage a place that has at times been a serious contender for landfill status.

Digging around in historical documents, Kim traced the house back to the town's founding members, known as the "Dagges"—a dozen French Huguenots fleeing old-world Catholics and the incoming new-world Dutch by making their own land grant along the Hudson River. After glancing at what is now downtown, the men efficiently divvied up the rest of their years acquiring this desolation,

about 1677. An unusual blend of stone and wood frame, the house measures 1,600. During its history, it's had a porch, three dormers, two porches, and a two-story-walled frame addition.

As you enter, the addition holds a family-size kitchen with cork flooring, granite countertops, and hexagonal stools. Matching the original, a layer of joint compound on the drywall gives the look of plaster.

Interior: Tom Malone and Kim Kroll sit on new porch with an original Dutch door. The sitting was heavily distressed and accented unevenly in slate black and



FLOOR PLANS

Originally 3,302 square feet, with two bedrooms, two baths, and a kitchen in what is now the game room, the house gained 1,150 square feet—it's kitchen with dining space, a mudroom, a new and half bath before a master suite in a side addition. On the second floor, two bedrooms became a sitting room and a bath was added. The first floor bath was also rebuilt and a door relocated to create a guest suite, and the door between the dining room and library was shifted for better traffic flow. The house also took on two front porches and a screened porch.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW DAVIS





one of which had the original one-room wood-frame house. The exact year is unknown. The two-room stone addition was documented by a survey in 1798 and is believed to predate 1781.

Down through the decades the house changed, with walls added and subtracted, its rooms rearranged, and periodically suffering from what Tom politely calls "defensive maintenance." One previous owner ran a dress shop on the first floor. Another, who dropped by late at night to reminisce, paused before the same room, now a guest bedroom. "This is the place," she informed Kim. "We only used it to lay out the dead."

To one side sat a 1970s leather sofa, with a medley of five doorways and flooring snuck atop patched flooring like lasagna. Tom pulled up six layers, only to reveal diagonal joists and a dimming gas under the doors. The beams had been decoratively painted, but the space felt cramped. "We brought in a kitchen

island," Kim remembers, preserving the decorative-painting on the paneled beams and adding the room with a sunroom off to the side. Paul, 28, designs houses; Kim, 30, designs. Paul's Rayonier.

ADVICE: RIBBET! Formerly the kitchen, the paneled room holds the sofa, book nook, one with a new blackboard front for Kim to scribble on.

CONCERN: An 18th-century tiger chest that was tapped to reveal the painted side and wallpaper remnants let him see the staves!

designer to try to figure it out," Kim says, "and that's when we realized we had to add on."

They already had a skilled crew, led by old-time whapster and general contractor Brian Kennedy. But with a rain-and-waiting-to-be-later unfolding before them, the couple weren't sorry when visitors asked if there was anything they could do to help. Kim recalls her stepmother working on a door that needed re-lining—nothing in the house was plumb, nothing was level—and another set of grandpas being charged with hitting loopholes with extra painter and helping to paint replacement windows. Tom had already replaced rotten old ones. "We call it the Beast of a Thousand Pores," he says.

To trim on budget, he hit the road, tramping down to Connecticut to save shipping costs on interior stems, custom-made to conform to windows with out-of-whack dimensions, and collecting cedar roof shingles offtered at a huge discount as long as you



picked them up—in Asia. When subcontractors arrived, Tom supervised welders, raising skills like welding and carpentry. He consulted timber experts who told him he could notch down the spars of the old-growth trees that went into the house. And he self-studied Google's website archive, relearning old trades. One had to be nimble, for a wood-burning stove split the kitchen, and another was so ready to be demolished that "bricks were falling down faster than we could catch them."

"Everything in the fullness of time," Tom and Kim kept saying, quoting the door-shop owner, whom Kim was satisfied that his master never stopped referencing or repeating this phrase. He was that kind of place.

The couple hired an architect, Paul Yannouskis, who brought in a structural engineer to see if those out-of-plumb windows and doors indicated more than a period-perfect sag. "A lot of structural and



ABOVE: Dark wood beams and a stained ceiling in the living room and a rendered plaster walls that were whitewashed with a natural lime wash. *Paint: Cabot's Paints; Rayberry Fiber (Dove) Slip-cast pottery: Benjamin Moore's Venetian Glass*

had failed," Tom says, "and the rear wall was four inches out of plumb." The old beams that sat on the foundation had to be replaced, and reinforced. Thus the original structural supports were reinforced with a couple of concrete piers and pressure-treated posts in the basement.

The stone foundation had to be repaired before Tom could pour pavers and a French drain. And the house still needed dry-icing out. Radhau's goal was to faced dry, with no handles in the basement and nests and roosters in ceilings and floors to render the need for wall-hunting drywork.

Plaster was patched and preserved, even as chunks fell here and there; existing joists were exposed; two walls were codornis, and an addition was grafted onto a gable wall. Macmillan's plan was to have the addition step back, but Ken made a case for canting and stretching it to be flush front and back, and Kennedy made a work, making a 1,100-square-foot wing that balances the 18th-century wood-frame original at the other end.

Adding on allowed the old kitchen to become a game room. Another room became the library, with a paneled, pre-Rev. "bad boy" jack-knife play

bed). The TV hid out in the living room.

The addition replaced an old screened porch, which itself replaced an "ever kitchen" that can be seen in a 1700 map. Because the addition has a second floor, Kennedy had to work to meld rooflines, but the payoff was a bonus room upstairs and a roosty kitchen with a routine accompanying wire-height on long, open-to-the-gathering spot large enough for informal dining and a folding sofa.

"Our goal was to sleep 13," says Ken. "When I was growing up, every year siblings and spouses and kids would descend on my mother and complain for what we called Happy Merry Thanksgiving—two holidays rolled into one. After he died and we moved to a smaller place, we wished we'd do it."

The couple put out welcome mats in the form of two front porches, one leading to a meadow area and the addition. A new screened porch fits like a glove, especially one within the limits of the kitchen.

The bonus room began as a playroom for the two younger kids, then became a giant studio, complete with wall-mounted bunks, for a daughter who taught ballet. When she flew the nest, Ken and Tom turned the studio and an closet into their master bedroom



TOP: The guest room once served as a dress shop and泪水 that was a formal parlor. The wide beams and era bedwork in modern white pine.

LEFT: The guest bath was gut renovated and updated for two. *Paint: Benjamin Moore's Blue Moon*



and bath, turning their first floor bedroom for guests. Of which there have plenty. Thorsen has become so popular among friends that Ken and Tom have started staging炒ing sessions especially for the Math Rader House. When the house is full, that's a spillover space in the barn—armfuls of, the house comes with a barn, and naturally, those fireplaces fire-uppers couldn't let it sit.

That project got done about four years ago, at which point you might assume the couple's labors were over. But not quite. Next came replacing the steps, buying a new piano, and rebuilding the porch that also came with the house. Tom plans to get to one "last" finishing touch—reclaiming a pile of old shingles—soon, early next year if not this weekend.

Time's passed, so far. Almost 15 years, or long enough for one of those roof-slanting sons to have a son and a daughter of his own.

Today, when they come to visit they don't have to sleep on the floor. "I've enjoyed a short evening in a room here with my grandchildren," says Ken of the house whose wife and pays over \$100,000 a year. "It is our hobby and passion—and it also happens to be a great place to gather our growing tribe." ■

ALL
ABOUT

Interior Wall Cladding

From shiplap to salvaged barn board, simple wood wall treatments are making a comeback, giving rooms a style and texture boost, plus a dose of rugged charm. Here's how to choose and use them. BY KATHLEEN HILL

WOOD WALLS HAVE A LONG HISTORY. In early colonial times, boards and shingles that skinned over a house's skeleton often formed the interior surfaces as well. Planks made up the partition walls. Later, vertical boards were nailed to studs, often with a decorative head or chevron V along their edges. Walls that were not plastered were often paneled. While the wealthy had fancy woodwork, most homes featured flat-backed clippings similar to those used on the exterior—usually boards with interlocking “lapped” or tongue-and-groove joints to keep out water and cold winds. When factory millwork became available in the Victorian era, decorative beaded boards often covered walls in utility areas such as kitchens and baths.

Simple, practical, and attractive, such wall clippings are back in demand once more. Lumberyards and home centers are offering products that ease installation, and designers are specifying them everywhere from formal rooms to industrial spaces to simple cottage interiors. Coming up here and on the following pages, *TOH* helps you through the options.

“SHIPLAP HOUSE,” as named for this 1885 shed addition to an early 18th-century house in Annapolis, Maryland, showcases a well-preserved historical example of the classic flat-backed siding. At the time, shiplap was the norm. Their beveled profile designed to shed water, shiplap boards had interlocking lapped joints along their edges to seal out the weather.



Painted pale blue, horizontal shiplap gives this farmhouse bedroom a serene feel.

VITALS

HOW MUCH? Individual board can cost under \$1 per linear foot for unfinished pine, and up to \$200 per linear foot for the reclaimed stuff. A strand of 4-by-8 has MDF board at \$10 per linear foot, and pine boards are about \$30 while individual beaded pine boards are for about \$2 per linear foot, unfinished.



DIY OR HIRE A PRO?
A good project for an experienced DIYer. The biggest challenges are staying off perfectly level (or plumb) and working around obstacles such as windows and doors. Deep a ceiling? You may need to go pro.

WHERE TO BUY IT?
Home centers offer variety of manufactured wood and MDF products, sometimes in kits. You'll find higher quality wood cladding at lumber yards. Brackets may be a special order.

HOW LONG-LASTING?
As long as wood cladding has been properly installed with sufficient items for expansion, it should last the life of the house. MDF may become susceptible to fading and moisture damage.

Wet-area options

What to use when moisture is an issue

On bathrooms and even kitchen sink walls, wood planks and plywood slices stand up to moisture better than standard MDF, which can swell with water. Very beadboard made for wet areas is convenient, though paneling can handle. Solid-core versions made for bath and shower enclosures are less costly to cover full walls. While there is water-resistant MDF, 20% senior to chisel cedar blocks Powers' preferred stock with wood where water could penetrate. "Any wood cladding will fare well with a coat of exterior water-based polyurethane," he says. The material is lightweight, made of polymer board with poly. It's water-resistant, impermeable to water, and doesn't off-gas. From about \$2 per linear foot; bionference.com for stores.



DIY MADE EASIER

Off-the-shelf products save time, money and installation headaches. Here are a few to consider



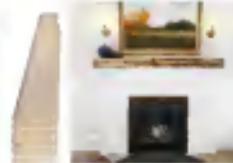
PRE-FAB PINE. These staircase components are prefinished and 100% natural, so-called clearwood. Six-8-foot-long pine planks come in individual, 10-foot and 12-foot lengths. Prices range from \$100 to \$1,000 per 10'x12" x 1" x 6" 10-foot board. Redwood Pine Stair Kit, \$12 per piece; instepladder.com



PRE-FAB PANELS. These off-the-shelf recessed wood panels are meant to complement tongue-and-groove. The sleek six-inch-thick 8' x 10' foot panels are designed to be used as wall panels. Prices start at \$100 per 8'x10' panel. Redwood Pine Panel Kit, \$32 per square foot; sawdust.com



PLANK KIT. The individual boards or pre-fabricated panels of wood come in eight sizes. Each pine plank comes with via continuous markings, written on the inside of pre-primed and primed Acoustic Series Panels in Planked Pine. Sunburst \$99 for a 12' square foot. sunburstpanels.com



PRE-FAB SHELVING. You can begin your building project armed and ready to put together a tall shelving unit. And these pine planks have a pre-cut panel already installed to support the open shelves and supports. 7' x 6' shelving panel. Redwood Pine Panel Kit, \$32 per square foot panel; sawdust.com

Design ideas

There's more than one cladding to suit any space. It's all in how you work it.

1 > COTTAGE APPEAL. White birch paneling creates a country cottage walls, adding texture and dimension, and accessories high ceilings. Running a couple of horizontal bands across them looks like shingles. Similar to shingle 3" x 4" x 16' prefinished, \$9.29; lowes.com



PRO TIPS
Design advice for how to use wall cladding to best advantage

GO WIDE. When using straight and 1x-grained cedar paneling, opt for a wider board. Debbie Gossen, owner of a green Kasey Gossen's project, sheathing with 12-inch wide planks so they take a more like a paneled look. She also used a decorative trimmer. Randomly with horizontal, she paints 2x4s across between boards to emphasize modern look.

EXPLOIT OPTICAL ILLUSIONS. As a general rule, narrow panels make rooms feel larger, while wide panels make rooms look more expansive. "But it also depends on how you use the room and what your eye sees," says Massachusetts-based designer Jennifer Blodgett. "The trick is to play with the eye's perspective by using tall, thin vertical paneling.

MIX AND MATCH WITH CHARDON. Chardonnay-style cladding is a great choice for a room's primary or secondary wall. It's a great way to add texture and depth to a room. The 8'x10' panels suggest keeping them separate. "I usually like more than two in a room, and I would like more than three in a room," she says. And it's important to use them thoughtfully, especially in a bathroom."

LET THEM WORK HARD. If you ever need to get rid of water damage, a resilient and durable is a great place to put it. "Mudroom walls are a great example," says Debbie. "Replaced with shiplap and beadboard, mudroom walls hold up better than drywall." Plus, you can beadboard anywhere that's convenient, either by running around the wall studs. ■

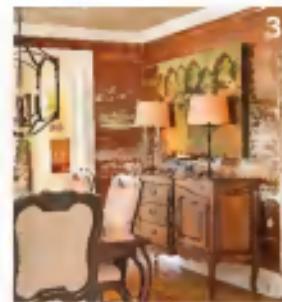


PHOTO COURTESY OF: 1. INSTEPLADDER.COM; 2. SAWDUST.COM; 3. LOWES.COM; 4. SAWDUST.COM; 5. INSTEPLADDER.COM; 6. SAWDUST.COM



TOP: HALL. The living room's original white oak trim came with layers of polyurethane paint. The homeowners stripped it and refinished it in matching mineral oil.

RIGHT: The 1925 Craftsman bungalow gained new warmth, updated with a smart new paint. As gracefully layered cultures are echoed by other improvements inside.



Going with the Grain

A meticulous reno brings out the beauty in a 1925 Craftsman, from its quarter-sawn oak to its built-in charm

By Deborah Baldwin

Photographs by Grindley + Graves

Produced by Nicole Esposito-Poly

Styling by Kelly Shaffer

Let early adoption rush headlong into a world where everything, including tonight's dinner, is controlled by an app. Sam and Kathleen, owners of a 92-year-old house with dreadfully old finished fittings, will be busy enjoying the tactile delight of passing mother-of-pearl-tipped push button switches that go sproing! Before building a room in the glow of pendant-style lighting, "It's a very task to my childhood," Sam says. "This character and the feeling you get—it reminds me of the women, easy houses my friends had when I was growing up."

Let you think he is some modern-day Van Winkle for whose time and progress mean nothing, that is the catch house



He and Kathleen have owned and upgraded, Sean's an emergency room doctor with a seriously green thumb, Kathleen's a registered nurse who understands interior design, and together they make a formidable home-improvement team with strong opinions and sophisticated taste.

"We doubt for fun, not money, and we're lucky if we break even," Kathleen says with a laugh. "I have weird ideas of a hobby. We start raising aquaponic plants and the next thing we know we're at Home Depot."

When they bought their current four-apartment Cleveland suburb of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, they were not on a real-estate buying kick or building a new-story addition in back. Yes, they did think it might be nice to expand the view from the leather sofa. And the house had a sad-sack porch that really isn't as a front porch. But things they liked about the house, like its compact size and Craftsman style,

compelled them to preserve and restore. Upgrading the kitchen meant adding style-appropriate white cabinetry, while opening up the standard installation modern appliances, of course.

ABOVE LEFT: **Kitchens**
Opposite: Sean's white kitchen and Kathleen's white porch makeover; the new kitchen. The kitchen's new lighting includes a Farmhouse-style pendant and a recessed light fixture.

ABOVE: **RIGHT: The front porch**, built in between the dining room and kitchen to cleverly connect the new front porch. It's a great backdrop over the range, but none of the others near the house. (Photo: Frank Loria, Chagrin Falls, Ohio)

Craftsmen

compelled them to preserve and restore. Upgrading the kitchen meant adding style-appropriate white cabinetry, while opening up the standard installation modern appliances, of course.

The house would not be theirs at all if Kathleen hadn't been walking around the neighborhood one spring day some years ago and noticed "this little white cottage with an odd, unrefined front porch that I found by an overgrown garden." At the time, they were busy raising two kids and renovating house No. 5, another nearby 1920s find that happened to be nearby. But Kathleen stepped long enough to spot a small pond through the rugged undergrowth, surrounded by rhododendron and huckleberry, oak, and white pine trees.

The whole lot, neglected some, remodeled by of The Sweet Gables, one of her favorite books. "I had a picket fence around it, and that made it even more unique," she now recalls.

If you know the book, you know why she could not walk away. "She was seriously building a future for us here. 'This will be the house we retire in,' the dad. Now, right, I thought—she had just finished renovating the one we were in! But I did start to take notice of the garden...."

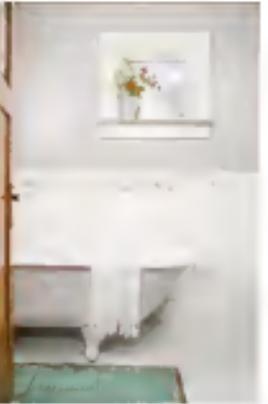
When the two met in high school, at a town near



ABOVE LEFT: The master bedroom's patterned window box is a big new addition; lighting: Big Drenbeck Services. ABOVE: Kathleen and Sean's white fireplace.

ABOVE: **RIGHT: The front porch**, built in between the dining room and kitchen to cleverly connect the new front porch. It's a great backdrop over the range, but none of the others near the house. (Photo: Frank Loria, Chagrin Falls, Ohio)

Craftsmen



Floor Plan

The one-story house gained 380 square feet during the renovation, a total of 1,450 with the addition of a master suite, a sitting room, a guest room (which was formerly a kitchen garage—see the blue-shaded room, that is), and a bathroom. The homeowners also replaced a porch with a third garage, approached directly to the dining room, and remodeled the new existing bath.





by, they would make day trips to Chagrin Falls to go swimming in and sleep in tents. A village that grew up around a tannery mill in the 18th century—how it got its name is unknown—it has since gained a “Norman Rockwell” charm, as Sam puts it.

After doing time on the East Coast, the couple migrated back, drawn in part by a love of the Midwest and its slower pace, and in part by a country-craftsman to the hospital where Sam now works. While redoing their first house in Chagrin Falls, they approached the local tannery pool and came up with the renovation equivalent of gold: an expert team headed by an all-something-to-every-structural-engineer and general contractor named Sal Cacciatore.

The house with the secret garden stayed in family territory until it was handed down to a new owner who planned to renovate but got cold feet, so to speak, after an April fire started. Builders never eat, “Before we knew it,” Sam says, “we were the owners of the little cottage up the street.”

For a number of years they simply rented it out, but when they drew closer to empty-nesthood, they put out a second SOS to Sal Cacciatore and his crew of seasoned carpenters. Could they come take a look?

ABOVE LEFT: Original stained glass windows and a grandfather-style fireplace were removed from the mudroom. INSIDE: A new mudroom and shower. MUDROOM: New custom exterior (left interior), white oak doors with leaded glass give the home a mix of Prairie style. HOMECOMING: Sam arrived with a 4-foot-tall nest and a nest of chickadees; the nestbox now sits on the mudroom walls with various layers of custom-blended paint and glass. MINIATURE: California Hemlock Company.

Along with the black exterior, the little California was built-in—no exterior walls were actually kept. Quartz-topped oak was buried under paint, plaster was filling all the walls, the bedroom ceiling was low—these homeowners are tall—and the one full bath was so small it was hard to turn around in.

As for the dirt-floor garage just a short distance behind the mudroom, just a long arm's reach from the back door, “Sal had to tear it down,” Sam says. “But we said, no, no, let's want to connect it to the house.” It was an inventive idea, if unperfected; the garage would become a pondside bonus room, linked to the house by a new mudroom-laundry area.

“Then along comes Harry the building inspector,” Sam recalls, “and he says you can't keep the garage in or, you have to dig below the foot line... So we start digging down and I'm watching these buck and teeth, and I'm chiselin', Oh, I don't know about this. Then it cost me 9,000 dollars to fix a new and I swear I bought it was going to flour away.” The crew jumped it out, poured concrete, hoisted and squared up the existing walls, installed layers of glass, “and that room became one of the most fun things about the house.”



Work was done in waves over several years and included a new roof, windows, and siding, along with improved heating and cooling. The old galley kitchen became a light-filled, shape-shifting space with a sight line from the sink to the dining room, living room, and backyard. “You can copy space,” says Sam. “When the family's over we can all sit within ourselves.”

Helping to make all this possible was architect George Clemens, who worked closely with Kathleen on design and with master carpenter Jesse Treadaway on period-style details. A double-faced room divider—lower cabinetry between any pairs—done straddles the kitchen and dining rooms, replacing a wall without gaining an inch. “You don't need to open up a wall more than 50 percent to create an open feeling,” Clemens says. Kitchens on the dining side, the built-in hide cooking clutter from the guests, who can still glimpse the cabinetry and fireplace. And the cook is never far off from the party.

Sam, who grew himself through school as a house painter, chose a soft orange for most of the walls—“It

looks like sand in a sunset,” she says—and did all the painting herself, and using glazing for added depth in the mudroom. He chose a Venetian to paint off a study and, for the dining room, he painted black to obscure the wood's natural grain. “You can copy space,” says Sam. “When the family's over we can all sit within ourselves.”

Midway through the work, a carpenter stopped by and said, “You have a Sioux-like house here.” They found it did have a striking resemblance to the Angle model, which was shipped in pieces to towns like Chagrin Falls during the 1800s. “It's safe to say that if it isn't an Angle, it was modeled on it,” Clemens says. Consequently, the porch he designed as a porch match to one often found on Angles.

What surprised him was the way that porch—like so much of what's new—looks original. The house may have had every antonym from a stylish look to a gender bender, yet when you see it, it's heartily grained oak married into handwelded architectural elements in a way of old-fashioned craftsmanship.

And that, of course, is just what the homeowners were hoping, said Sam.

IS IT A BEARD
NOT A BEARD?
Find these tips of the Sioux Angle
model's exterior
and should have
composing with
the grid.

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when you go to sleep.

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cover the smartest, most adjustable sleep of your life. ResponsiveAir™ technology automatically and effortlessly adjusts for your ideal comfort. PartnerSense™ technology lets you sleep in peace. It's even designed to warm your feet to help you fall asleep faster.

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"We frequently value certain life stages in our society above others. We have four stages in our life that we value highly: birth, childhood, young adulthood, and old age. We have four stages in our life that we value less highly: adolescence, middle age, old age, and death."



How does a product make it into the TOH Top 100? Besides being introduced in the past year, it's hard to pinpoint a rule that encompasses the entire list. We're fans of products that cross off household to-dos, like a washing machine that can tackle two loads at once (page 96). Smart DIY solutions, like an easier, faster way to fix cracked concrete (page 104), make excellent finds. And some items? Well, they **simply make life more enjoyable**. Why not cap off a bath remodel with a tub that invites you to indulge in a nice, long soak (page 96)? Turn the page to check out the year's best. >>

Kitchen



01. Benchmarks Double-Sided with My Way Rock

• **BOSCH**

Just when you thought there wasn't any room in another thing, along comes a double-sided rock in a line of top-drawer monuments that allows more headroom. From \$1,299. bosch-kitchens.com

02. No Wiggle Swivel Cabinet Pullout

• **HARDWARE RESOURCES**

It takes tough hardware to make a pull-out so stable it can handle canned goods without shaking. So when you pull it out, it's the way it's

wants. Face-frame and frameless styles. From \$295. hardwareresources.com

03. Bazzett 1-Light Pendant

• **HOUSE OF ANTIQUE HARDWARE**

One part farmhouse, one part factory, this fits in anywhere. Natural stains or two coats of lacquer. From \$399. houseofantiquehardware.com

04. 7-Inch Digital Tablet Holder Stand

• **CHICAGO CUTLERY**

Standby: Your favorite lenses in this wood block and park your smart device. See sa

you never the recipe while mixing the onions. Double-duty included: 370-degree rotatable stand.

05. Delta Char

• **CREATE & EAT**

This expert, aluminum set of tools comes in unexpected finishes. Metal cookware (shown). Pardon? One of the most stylish pieces of kitchenware. \$149. createandeat.com

06. Ultimate Bracelet

• **IPER**

This Bluetooth bracelet is an easy, inexpensive way to remove food and other contaminants from drinking water. sensu.us/iper

when do filters need replacing. Just make sure it's compatible with your faucet. \$35 per can.

07. Crosstown Sink with Water Deck

• **ELKAY**

Forget patching holes in a stainless steel sink—this double-basin stainless steel undermount, 32-inch-wide, comes with a faucet precommuting deck and predrilled holes. \$997. elkay.com

08. 72-Inch Counter-Depth French Door Refrigerator

• **JOHN BOEN**

A black-and-white box-free, ice-and-water refrigerator. \$1,650. calicoolappliances.com

drawers, dual-element controls and more; cook with your kitchen faucet and ice cream. Stainlesss steel like a fountain, no gap overhead. \$4,399. jewer.com

09. Duraleum Medium Linear Lumin

• **GIBCO (LIGHTING)**

For a glowing effect in need of a dramatic touch, here's a linear single-head fixture that's 40 watts. Choose from three finishes—Polished Nickel, Aged Iron, or Weathered Zinc. It's a linear and start-coupling wire. \$1,650. calicoolappliances.com

10. Matte-Finish Man-Made Stone

• **CAMERA**

Want more kitchen sparkle or granite? See this look, and honed stone needs TLC—unlike this matte quartz, which comes in 31 designs and will not share \$85 per square foot. calicoolappliances.com

11. Andalusia Tile

• **WALKER ZANGER**

For a look that plays delicacy with strength, set it in a wall or in these square-format terrazzo coffee tiles. The cost of crisscrossed lace is stable for all interior surfaces. From \$200 per square foot. walkierzanger.com

12. Azura Faucet with Pull-Down Spray

• **BLANCO**

This sleek, pull-down faucet can be a function of your glassware. blanco.com

13. 10-Speed Hand Mixer

• **KWIKPS**

If you value rendering others grit and power, otherwise, look for this heavy-duty hand mixer. With 10 speeds, a quiet DC motor and a flexible mixing blade, it's speed adjust and inferior. \$30. kwikps.com

14. Watercolor Collection

• **PYREX**

Maybe your oven shelves need an instant pick-me-up? Get off the function of pyrex glass bakeware and serving pieces, and use Watercolor. From \$7.99. pyrex.com

15. Glass Canopy Range Hood

• **BLANCO**

Great ventilation doesn't have to be ugly. The flip-open range hood matches with country and still looks up-front and down. At the cost of \$800, it's \$100 per square foot. blanco.com

16. Glass Canopy Range Hood

• **BLANCO**

Great ventilation doesn't have to be ugly. The flip-open range hood matches with country and still looks up-front and down. At the cost of \$800, it's \$100 per square foot. blanco.com


30. FlexWash + FlexDry
SAMSUNG

Two loads, one machine, no waiting. Each of these front-loaders also has a vertical top-loader tray for delicate clothes. Color-coded settings and imagine all four going at once. From \$1,620 each. samsung.com

31. Cessario 54-611 Whitespread Paint Set
WHITEBOARD

Lever handles, imported accents in an angled spout and brushed aluminum (shown) brushed copper, and brushed black make this high-end, low-flow faucet a standout. From \$1,252. whiteboard.com

32. Luxury Vinyl Sheet Flooring
LETTUCE
MANNINGTON

With budget-space gotta lots of traffic, consider vinyl flooring. This pattern copies parquet board woods like light down to lighter highlights of wood and comes in three thicknesses. From \$1.50 per square foot. mannington.com


33.
33. 3D Element Walnut Click Ceramic Plastics
FOLSEN

Get the look of walnut without felling a tree or installing VOCs. 3D-printed plastic, ceramic, and enameled "live" chemical expansion. Like wood—they can knot. No great needed. 3.45sq ft square/2ft. folsen.com

34. Townsend Water-Saving Shower Head
AMERICAN STANDARDS

The adjustable, T-shaped water showerhead features the push-fit 3/8 by 6-inch showerhead connection and uses 2.5 gallons per minute without losing you high-energy. From \$88. americanstandard.com

35. Henley Cast Iron Pedestal Tub
SIGNATURE HARDWARE

Here's a tall, rectangular tub with smooth lines and easy access. It's one-piece, so it's easy to choose the best view. And enjoy. It's a heavy, but known how to hold water. \$1,879. signaturehardware.com

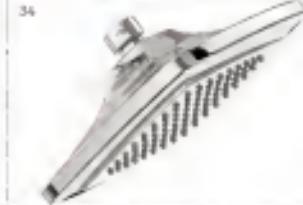

35.


PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIGNATURE HARDWARE

Tools

36. Mobile Project Center
SKILL TOOLS

Unlike its plastic worktables this 43-pound steel version supports 350 pounds with its table up, or 100 pounds folded down. The top has a grooved track for clamps and butterfly connectors to easily-clamp parts together. \$360. skilltools.com

37. Laser Tape Measure
GENERAL TOOLS

This 10-foot tape measure has a built-in laser that measures distances up to 100 feet accurate to within 1/8 inch. To measure just pull-out the fiber-optic end and read the distance on the LCD display. \$40. lasertape.com

38. True Blue Digital Box Level
ATLAS SPRINGER

These are the first digital levels that will calculate with the touch of a button up to 100 feet with 1/8-inch accuracy. Set either for level or plumb. Comes with a carrying bag or joint bag. Then the infrared receiver allows digital plumb lines you can hold at any angle, even upside down. \$399. atlas-springer.com

40. Ultra Max Cordless Airless Sprayer
SKILL TOOLS

Blasting up pressure from 300 to 2,000 psi in sprays, ball-wands, and solvent-based finishes, and needs no dilute nozzle stops or joint caps. Then the extendable safety and cleaning plus you can hold it at any angle, even upside down. \$399. skilltools.com

41. 10-Volt FlexVolt Track Saw
DEWALT

Like all track-saws, this 12.5 countermodel makes pro straight, no-squirm cuts more safely than a table saw. But it down smoother, but fury power, shrugging the demands of wood cutting. \$379. dewalt.com


36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

Home Tech

53. Echo Show

• AMAZON

Amazon's first voice-controlled smart speaker gets a 7-inch touchscreen and camera, so now you can ask Alexa to play YouTube videos, show weather forecasts, answer questions, \$299; [amazon.com/echo-show](http://amzn.to/2e0mz0w)



55. Google WiFi

• GOOGLE

Simply add one of these mesh networking devices where you need a Wi-Fi signal to extend your home's Internet coverage. It's a simple, strong signal into every corner. \$299; [google.com/wifi](http://bit.ly/2e0mz0w)

56. Spotlight Cam Indoor

• ESRG

Just a few hours of sunlight keep this security camera charged, making night-time surveillance a breeze. It's solar power. The HD camera captures two-way talk with a microphone and speaker. \$299; [esrg.com/spotlightcam](http://bit.ly/2e0mz0w)

57. PLAYBASE + SONOS

• SONOS

This sound bar dramatically enhances your TV audio. If you're not ready to install this surround sound system, Sonos' room-filling 500-watt remote can play music from your smartphone with a single tap. \$599; [sonos.com/playbase](http://bit.ly/2e0mz0w)

58. Easee Pulldown Kitchen Faucet with MotionSense™

• KOHLER

Most kitchen faucets can only be held in one place. This one's hands-free. Wave your hands to turn on or off, or don't move them to enjoy hands-free water. \$299; [kohler.com/pull-down-faucet](http://bit.ly/2e0mz0w)

59. Sleep Number 360 Smart Bed

• SLEEP NUMBER

Want your bed to help you drift off? This mattress firmness and track your SleepIQ quantity of slumber throughout



60. Smoke Gateway

• THERMOWORKS

Many smoke detectors are hardwired to the Smoke WiFi Thermometer, which allows for 300-foot wireless range for monitoring grilling and smoking. This new WiFi gateway adds app control and a wireless range of 300 feet. \$199 plus \$30 for first year of service. [thermworks.com](http://bit.ly/2e0mz0w)



61. Lighthouse Home Security Camera

• LIGHTHOUSE

Lighthouse's 3.2-camera and motion-learning technology makes for more accurate surveillance and lets its WiFi language commands like "Who was in the dog yesterday around noon by the front door?" \$299 plus \$30 for first year of service. [lighthouse.com](http://bit.ly/2e0mz0w)

62. Roomba i7+

• iRobot

This 2017 update to the Roomba is notable not just because it adds WiFi to its earlier refined WiFi model. It's also more efficient, more powerful, and more intelligent. \$799 plus \$300 for first year of service. [irobot.com](http://bit.ly/2e0mz0w)

63. Molekule Air Purifier + Molekule

• MOLEKULE

The world's first molecular air purifier removes 99.97% of allergens, mold, bacteria, and viruses. It's also a game-changer, and, best of all, a "memory feature" that remembers a smog-poor spot. \$299; [molekule.com](http://bit.ly/2e0mz0w)



65. Precision Boomer
Waterjet • BREVILLE
Finely square the tile and
temperatures of freshwater
For specific water-boiling
recipes, include these boiling
temperatures (in degrees Celsius):
For optimal extraction (300):
brevilleusa.com

66. Philips Hue White Ambiance Candle Bulb
• PHILIPS LIGHTING
Flag out candleholders bulbs
element in Philips Hue bridge
For control by app and voice
assistant. Temperature
range from warm white to cool
daylight, with a color palette
\$30 amazon.com



67. (Philips) Avo
• ENERGYSOURCE LIVING
The horizontal microblade corporate the steel
head that's this smart, then the average one plus
the three-dimensional
energysourceliving.com \$175

68. 103N All-in-1 Knife,
Pliers, Axe & Tool
• SHARPFUL
With a big enough for thick
work pieces, this compact
device conceals blades set
at specific angles for pruner

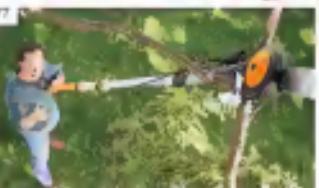
axe- and knife-sharpening, plus
hanging blade and central
surface for holding other tools.
\$16 bonkshot.com

71. FlexWash 2000
PSI Pressure Washer
System • GENERAL
SYSTEMS
Tidy the garage (the wood
shelves, the fence)—or wood,
concrete, soap—this power-
washer automatically adjusts
to the right pressure, letting
you to work faster and with
fewer misses. Color-coded
reports tell you you've got
the ideal spray angle. 160
generalsystems.com

72. FlexiGAL
ComfortGEL Bypass
Pruner—4.1 Inch
• CORONA TOOLS
An adjustable sheath lets you switch
how far the bypass blades open
to fit what you're cutting. The
ergonomic, adjustable design
prevents repetitive stress
like shoulder strain without hand
fatigue. \$26 coronatools.com

**73. 28-Inch Snow
Pusher • TRUE TEMPER**
Clearing snow-covered
walkways with a single push
(minus the dirty sound)
isn't possible, but this 3-foot-wide

Outdoor



pusher turns you into a human
snowblower. The nylon blade
won't scratch surfaces. \$65.
true Temper.com

74. AZEK Pegola Kit
• AZEK

You know it's something
this sturdy is so easy to assemble. It's three styles
up to 12' wide, and over 140
Sunbrella fabrics for the
unstoppable canopy. These kits
let you create a custom outdoor
entertainment space. From
\$1,225. azek.com/pegolas

75. Clark Charcoal Grill
• CHARCOAL GRILLS

This assembled to the first
grill you'll ever buy is a charcoal
grill—no assembly required—when the mercury dips below
70 degrees F. In summer, it can
it's easy to get back into the
swing. \$55 for a 24-inch
grill; charcoalgrills.com

76. Timberline 550
• THERMEX

Gasperfect our tools
anywhere with this wood-
pellet burning grill. Connect to
a WiFi controller to adjust
temperature, change the
smoke level, and set timers
from your smartphone. \$1,700
thermex.com

77. Chain Drive
• TURBOPOWER
• TURBOPOWER Pole Saw &
Pruner • TURBOPOWER
Reach higher and/or bigger
trees with a handle that

reaches from 7 to 16 feet
and an impressive 15-inch-wide
blade. A built-in bypass pruner
handles smaller branches. And
a remote to switch head head
\$300. turbopower.com

78. 60-V 540-CFM
Cordless Blower
• BLACK+DECKER

This battery-powered blower
delivers a torro-like blow. The
fan-based unit gives it the
strength of a gas-powered but
without fumes. It's a light as a
handheld 300-watt vacuum
and ultra-quiet.

**79. Taylor Self-Leveling
Golf Crates**
• FLAMENT BRANDS

Three different香型
surfaces—including topsoil that
converts to green—will pack
everybody of your golf needs.
Reliable, yet perfectly cushioned
bottoms. This tool won't scratch
anywhere surfaces. Made
compost, so it's multitalented.
\$50. taylorgolfcrates.com

**80. RM4800T Electric
Riding Lawn Mower**
• RYobi

This mid-deck riding-able
ride on cut down anniversaries
and maintenance without
compromising power. One
charge packs enough
to trim 100 yards of
16-in. cutting radius areas.
\$1,499. ryobipro.com



63. Master Glove• **FLY-ON-SEAL**

These positive-grip forearm stablizers make them good for worker work, the extremely warm and cushiony cut. Availabilty: 16mgs makes them great. They're unique, and you won't want to share \$300. flyonseal.com

64. Westport Adirondack Chair• **LOLL DESIGNS**

Most Adirondack seats are plain. This one's not. This chair's unique looks is U.S. made aluminum gliders that will stand up to time and the elements. It comes in several colors, but why not go bright? \$375. lolldesigns.com

65. Wom's Team Composite Supply Company

Odorless and easy composting? Believe it. Real eggshells (and apparently) camouflage in terms of how it breaks, and the strength makes harvesting compost easy ever. Price: dirt cheap! \$229 per 20-lb. bag. womsteamsupply.com

66. Performance Ready-to-Grow Mix • **PITTOS**

Plant your plants with this path-reducing mix, previously available only to pros. Made from recycled-wood fibers (think newspaper). It can be used as a cover or as a soil amendment in a soil mix. Supercharge growth: 3.75 per cubic foot, path-wise mix.



Building Products

67. Emerald Outdoors Trim Enamel

When the epoxy-painted low-VOCs of a latex paint, and the smooth finish and durability of an enamel. Use it inside or out. Dries in just 2 hours. \$38 per gallon. emeraldoutdoors.com

68. Concrete Crack Lox

Lightweight carbon fiber bars epoxy-filled bars cut

across or across in slabs or walls. When the epoxy-cured, the crack won't have a flat. Crack's fixed up to 200,000 pounds of tensile force. \$229 per 20-lb. bag. crackrecovery.com

69. Performance Ready-to-Grow Mix • **PITTOS**

High performance and powder coated for maximum rust-resistance. These steel plates are not only durable but also strong. They look better in place than the rest. It's a sturdy washer. Holding the heads of structural screws. From: \$2.90 apiece. pittos.com

70. Prism Luxury Flooring

These make this look vinyl plank in 20 finishes: wood, look styles, make a floor that's waterproof, easy to install and virtually-dust proof. Thanks to a thermoplastic core that needs pressure up to 1,400 psi. From: \$25 per square foot. prismflooring.com

71. Dura-Fl-Ex Veneer-Style Lath • **BORAL**

Installing veneer just got a lot easier with this easy step: staple on borer. Mortar bonds to its alkali-resistant fiberglass mesh and its durable plastic sheeting. \$225 per 150-square-foot roll. boral.com

72. Irreli-Balance 100 ERV (PV-10VBCI) • **PANASONIC**

It's warm in moderation, recovery won't let you down, it's also stain-free, indoor and outdoor, and it's low-cost. It's temperature stability. But the ERV also has the unique Rabbly agent in cold climates, some ambient indoor air is warmed up to humidity the incoming outdoor air. Two 200-meters ensure minimal energy. \$2,500 business premium cost.

73.**74.****75. KoolTherm K12 Prening Board Insulation** • **KINGSPAN**

This foil-faced board gets its insulating R-8.6 performance from a closed-cell polyurethane foam. That's 41 percent better than everyday polyisocyanurate. Plus, it's vapor-free resistant. \$349 per 48 by 96 by 1/2-inch thick sheet. kingspanusa.com

76. Revolution High-Performance Finish

• **SANISH**

Create a long-lasting, high-quality finish in one step. It's UV-resistant, penetrating deep, durably, it has solids, and a one-coat compound that dries overnight without sagging, shrinking or cracking. \$24 per gallon. sanish.com

77.**78.****79. FastFix Rapid Patch** • **EKA**

For quick, no-mess repairs. It's spackled concrete floors or patches, simply pour the carrier, separating the components of the two part, convertible patch. Then mix them together in the bag and pour. Hardens in 30 to 60 minutes. Devil or don't have. One bag covers 1 square foot. \$10 apiece. ekacorp.com

80. Large-Hole Repair Kit • **3M**

In a box is everything you need to repair drywall holes. Strengthens across an extensive bed of particle to quickly levels, sandpaper, and a one-coat compound that dries overnight without sagging, shrinking or cracking. \$24 per gallon. 3m.com

81.**82.****83.****84.**

**95. Pure Wool 50/50
Loose-Fill Insulation**

+ PARAGON WOOL PRODUCTS

Tangling need needles allow for less than one-half inches of loose fill up to 8' in height, or 10' and up to 10' in R value by 27 percent, to R 3.05. It is naturally noncombustible and moisture resistant, insulating sound and VOCs. \$5 per cubic foot. paragonwoolproducts.com

96. RockSolid Deck

Start Wood Primer

+ RUST-OLEUM

Thicker, water-based primer eliminates the need to strip and sand and has reduced urethane or acrylic solid color primer. The acrylic formulas adhere to nearly any treated or uncoated wood. The longevity of the coat is 30 years. rustoleum.com

**97. Wheel Crib
with Bib Mounts**

+ FEDERAL BRAKE

These panel-grade maple car cribs have a hidden cleat routed to accept a 1/4-inch-thick panel cutout. It holds that supports an unshredding 500 pounds. Choose from eight solid wood stains.

such as the Marigold cabinet bracket shown. From \$85. federalbrake.com

98. Weathered Wood Accelerator

+ TASTHANE

This penetrating stain reacts with the tannins in wood to create a rustic, barnwood look in 30 to 60 minutes. The higher the tannin levels, and the longer the treatment, the grayer the results. \$11 per quart. tasthane.com

99. SwitchLight Cover

Plate + SHAPPOWER

A three-LED night light turns on and off automatically, reacts to a photoelectric eye, and uses only 10 percent electricity a year. Easy to install. A push snap-on switch is included. \$11 per snap-on switch. shapower.com

100. Mold-Killer + HLD-K

ActivCare ERA Registered

Exterminator. This biocidal-free formula, however, does away with fungi or 500+ molds. It comes packaged for five different areas: indoor insulation, HVAC sheathing and both old and green end-paint prep. \$20 each. aera.com

95

97

98

99

100



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PHOTO © 2002 ANDREW HETHERINGTON
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: JEFFREY L. HARRIS

THE HISTORY Built circa 1872, this 1½-story is believed to be the oldest house in town. Local lore holds that the home's original owner, Captain William Stover, used the square cupola to store surveyor's instruments on the four sides—though in his landscaped location he would have been hard-pressed to spot a ship on the horizon. These days he's the steward of the Francisco House, after the family that owned it for much of the 20th century—in the early 1980s, Mary Stover—left.

Francisco—part of a new wave of property buyers in the area—spent several years letting it fall into decay before **WHAT IT NEEDS** The 2,660-square-foot house has an impressive, symmetrical facade with its pair of paired columns, a low-pitched, simple hipped roof, and wide, overhanging eaves characteristic of Italianate. While that was the go-to style for many Upper Midwesterners of the era, few of the houses still stand. Though some of the house's features, such as the fireplaces have been lost to time, others including 10-foot ceilings, wide plank hickory floors, and its adobe exterior remain intact.

WHAT IT NEEDS Thanks to the 1980s renovation, the mechanicals are in working order, and the windows and roof have upgraded. One of the four bedrooms was converted to a second-floor bath, but the first-floor bath and kitchen need attention, as does a very damp one-bedroom. Though the vinyl siding is in good shape, original exterior details—decorative brackets on the eaves and pilasters on the corners of the house—were removed during its installation. Restoring these could turn the sturdy Italianate brick into a showpiece. —KATE MCCORMICK



Impressive
Italianate
near Detroit
and Ann
Arbor!



1. The Francisco House sits on a nearly quarter-acre lot. Though close to the city center, it's in a neighborhood with no through traffic.
2. The rear entrance and sunroom date to around 1980, while the original eaves are original.
3. A built-in cupboard in the dining room has an opening that's half-blocked; the kitchen, through the door at right, is part of a 20th-century addition that connects this house to its neighboring 4. Removing the wall to wall carpeting revealed the original wide-plank hickory floors.

GOT A HOUSE?

Find out what's needed for your old house to be in top condition. Call or write: This Old House, 200 Harvard Street, Somerville, MA 02199.



PHOTO: ANDREW HETHERINGTON

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